

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th January 2021 by video conference

PRESENT: Cllr. Taylor (in the Chair), Cllr. Dixon, Cllr. Atkins, Cllr./County Cllr. Beresford, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Gunzi and Cllr. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Beaney, County Cllr. Collor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: District Councillor Rose

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the minutes represented an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and all agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES

Item 101(iv) 2020 Additional Waste Bin at Co-op: DDC are not providing additional bins at the moment but the Parish Council could pay for one if it wished to.

Item 104d Recreation Ground Treework: The urgent maintenance has been done. Other treework is in progress.

Item 105b KCC Warden Scheme: Clerk is waiting for details.

5. REPORTS

a) District Councillors

District Cllr. Beaney reported: the DDC Local Plan is going out to consultation in January; £250,000 has been awarded to DDC to provide additional electric car charging points in the District; a list of support services during the Covid crisis is available (Cllr. Beaney will send through to the Clerk); a food poverty review of the District has been undertaken and details are available to watch online; cabinet have been discussing the DDC Climate Change Strategy; they also approved adoption of a social media investigation policy to allow social media posts to be investigated and used as evidence for criminal offences; Covid-19 tests for people without symptoms are now available to book at the Dover Discovery Centre.

b) County Councillors

County Cllr. Beresford reported that the main vaccine centre will be at Dover Health Centre and adjacent car park. People will be contacted by the NHS or their GP. KCC is currently coping with an increase in unaccompanied child asylum seekers (UCAS). Any further increase will require government help. Libraries are available online for 'click and collect' but people cannot visit. People can also join online.

County Cllr. Collor reported roadworks are continuing during 'lockdown'. Scheduled roadworks by Highways England on Jubilee Way have been delayed because of potential holdups after Brexit. The gridlock experienced in Dover when the French border was closed before Christmas has had a positive result in making the Kent Resilience Forum consider plans for dealing with vehicles under 7.5tonnes after Brexit, where previously no plans existed. Plans for the proposed Whitfield Customs Site is open for consultation from tomorrow for three weeks. The current rate for Covid-19 infections in Dover is 612 cases per 100,000 people. The combined Kearsney and Whitfield areas have one of the highest rates locally.

c) PCSO

Chairman thanked Cllr. Eyre-Jackson for circulating the monthly report for December 2020. Nothing further to report.

c) Parish Councillors

- i) Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that incidents of dogs on the Recreation Ground have been reported to DDC. The repainting of the Crabble Mill railings is progressing.
- ii) Cllr. Jones reported problems with an abandoned vehicle on London Road. There is also an ongoing discussion between some London Road residents and Kent Highways regarding possible subsidence in the area.
- iii) Chairman asked for the Parish Council's appreciation to be recorded for the prompt repairs to damage at the Bus Terminus carried out by Kent Highways.

6. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC

During the past year, more trees have been lost in the Parish. Do the Parish Council intend to replant any as has previously been done? This query relates particularly to Valley Road. Chairman responded that the Parish Council would speak to Kent Highways to see what may be possible with regards to replanting.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson has also received a similar query about the remaining tree on the roundabout in Coxhill Gardens.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications

DOV/20/01457 | Erection of pergola (retrospective) | Delphi, Dove Lea Gardens, River, CT17 0QH – No comments.

b) Decisions by Dover District Council

None

8. RIVER RECREATION GROUND REPORT

a) Community Christmas Tree

The tree has now been removed. Cllr. Dixon thanked Cllr. Atkins for her help. A different site will be used next Christmas with immediate access to power and more visible. A costing will be brought to the next meeting.

b) Paving Slab Artwork

Slabs have been re-touched, where necessary, and covered with sealant. They are now ready to be put up. Cllr. Dixon asked for volunteers to decide the sequence of the display.

c) Waste bins

Cllr. Dixon asked Clerk to change the cardboard bin for a second general waste bin.

d) Horse Head Springers

The new heads are ready to reinstall.

e) Courtyard adjacent to Cottage

The area needs cleaning up. Cllr. Dixon will make contact with the occupant of the adjacent property to clarify ownership. It is believed that half the courtyard belongs to the Parish Council and the rest to No. 5 Crabble Court.

f) Muddy areas

The groundwork contractors have started work to improve the eroded areas under play equipment so that they will be less muddy.

g) CCTV

Cllr. Buhlman confirmed that the new CCTV is functioning well. Monitoring is better on a tablet than a smartphone but he is waiting for an app to be provided so that a laptop can be used to monitor the CCTV.

h) 'Kick-About' Goals

The wheels on the goals have now collapsed completely and have had to be replaced with more robust versions.

i) Outdoor Gym equipment

The equipment is currently closed to the public under current government Covid-19 legislation.

j) Coffee Shop

Works have not started and will not start at the moment in current circumstances.

k) Bowling Club

The Bowling Club are looking to replace some doors. They will provide the specifications chosen to the Parish Council. The Parish Council are also looking into the installation of an electric fence in the ditch around the bowling green. This was reported to the Council by a local resident. Cllr. Dixon has been in touch with the Bowling Club and will report to the next meeting.

l) Water Supply

Water readings have been taken and the bowls club will be invoiced for their water use during the last year.

m) Defibrillator

Cllr. Gunzi reported on investigations undertaken by himself and Cllr. Jones into the current best value and quality equipment. The recommendation, after research, was the 'Phillips HS1 Heartstart' at a cost of £1,036 (inc. VAT). All recommendations are within the previously agreed budget and were accepted. Cllr. Gunzi will pass the information on to the Clerk.

9. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Chairman has spoken with Louise Winch of Kent Highways following on from the traffic survey that they carried out in Lower Road. This was with regard to the establishment of a 20mph speed zone between Minnis Lane and Valley Road. Many letters of support have also been received from the public. This will be part of a Highway Improvement Plan being drafted. The plan will be discussed with Kent Highways and the final draft will be brought to the Parish Council for approval. Additional HGV signage could also be included.

With regard to a potential pedestrian crossing in London Road, previously discussed, it is understood that Kent Highways are investigating this from their side.

Once established, the Highway Improvement Plan can be amended and referred to annually by Kent Highways with regard to prioritising projects.

Cllr. Dixon hoped that if Kent Highways were unable to progress the 20mph speed zone at the moment that the Parish Council would consider funding the scheme fully to make sure it is implemented.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Statements

Financial statements from October to December had previously been circulated. Cllr. Dixon proposed that that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Beresford and agreed.

Cllr. Gunzi asked if there was a maintenance contract with the new CCTV installation. Cllr. Buhlman said that there was.

b) 2021 Precept

Clerk reported on the proposed budget for 2021/22 . As the Parish Council maintains a healthy reserve and bearing in mind current circumstances, the proposal was for a budget which maintains the same cost to ratepayers as the current year. This would require a small reduction of £358 on this year's budget, giving a budget £65,215 for 2021/22. Cllr. Dixon proposed that the precept figure be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gunzi and all agreed.

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kent and Medway CCG – Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Notification received from the NHS about the local programme.

b) Rapid Covid-19 Testing

Rapid Covid-19 testing for people without symptoms is now available at the Dover Discovery Centre by appointment.

c) DDC Local Plan Consultation

Some correspondence from other Parish councils sent in to request delay due to difficulty in getting information out. DDC are providing the Parish Council with posters, 2 full copies of the document and a dedicated website has been setup. Online tutorial sessions to show people how to access have been announced. Cllrs Gunzi and Jones are interested in receiving further details.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) PSPO

Query about consultation for changes to PSPO.

ii) Update on adoption of BT Phone Box in Lower Road to be on next month's agenda.

Meeting closed at 9.14pm